



## OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 10/16/13

Complaint Number: 13-146091  
Type of Incident: Fatal Accident  
Reporting Officer: Deputy Chris Hawley  
Supervisor Approval: Sgt. Cammenga

On 10-16-13 at 1822 hrs a 2 vehicle accident occurred at the intersection of Cedar Springs Ave and Egner St in Nelson Township.

Judy Mae Ranger, age 69 from Brohman, was driving a 2008 Ford Taurus Wagon. She was stopped at the stop sign on Egner St facing east bound at Cedar Springs Ave. Judy began to turn northbound onto Cedar Springs Ave. She turned in front of a 2008 Saturn that was southbound on Cedar Springs Ave, which was driven by Kristy Lynn Beemer, age 28 from Sand Lake. Kristy attempted to avoid the Ford Taurus and swerved into the northbound lane where both vehicles collided with each other.

The 2008 Ford Taurus had three occupants. The driver, Judy Ranger, had bumps and bruises. The front passenger was Herbert Donald Smith, age 92 from Twin Lakes, suffered an injured hand and an injured stomach. The rear passenger side occupant Kathleen Fernn Bitely, age 88 from Bailey, was pronounced deceased at the scene. All the occupants were wearing seatbelts.

The 2008 Saturn had four occupants. The driver, Kristy Beemer, had some blood on her lungs and suffered an injured hip and ribs. The front seat passenger, Michael McBride, age 30 from Sand Lake, suffered a broken wrist and a broken femur. A 5 year old female suffered bumps and bruises and a 3 year old female suffered two broken femurs. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt; however, Michael was wearing his seatbelt and the children were in child seats.

Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in the crash.